

THE BRADFIELD GRAPEVINE



November 2021 No: 198

The clocks will have fallen back an hour when you get this month's offering, to browse through - hope you all remembered! Lots to read in this month's Grapevine....Mike Morley kindly gave us his homily that he read in Church for harvest - but the message from it is broader than just harvest time - we all have a responsibility to look after what we have around us - it's been a real tonic to see the changing seasons and colours during the pandemic...although sometimes the seasons appear to have forgotten what they should be doing when they arrive! We are advertising two events for our neighbouring villages in this edition - what sounds like a very interesting talk taking place in Lt Whelnetham, about the charitable work done by the charity Hand to Mouth and Bradfield St George Village Hall Fireworks and BBQ.

Macmillan update - please note **£490** was the grand total raised from our joint Cycle/Village Coffee Day held on 19th September. A proportion of this should be 'topped up' with Gift Aid so well done everyone. Thankyou on behalf of Macmillan Cancer Support.

Next month will be a double edition covering December and January so you know what that means ...CHRISTMAS...there, we've said it. If any one has any festive recipes they would like to share they would be gratefully received.

Margaret Lovick
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Debbie Thomas
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Email: stclaregrapevine@gmail.com

Letter from the Rectory

Dear Friends

The shocking news this week of the death of Sir David Amess has made many of us feel as though democracy is under threat. Our hearts go out to his family and his constituents who loved and respected him.

One cannot help but think that the world is going backwards, as totalitarian regimes and far-right politics seem to be on the rise in some parts of the globe. It may be a sign of the times that we are living through. Covid-19 and its consequences have perhaps played a part in causing high anxiety among many who are looking for an alternative way to live.

And once again the question of what God is doing in our world is on the lips of many that I meet in my everyday work and witness.

I believe that God is in the midst of all that is going on in the world which he created; and he wants us to know that we are loved as his children. Those who do not profess a faith in God think that our God is heartless when such horrible acts happen in the world: but I would challenge that. For when we have faith, all those things in life that cause us distress and harm are easier to face. Our faith helps us, it comforts us, it protects us, in bad times and in good. Just like a long and faithful marriage.

As we prepare for the annual act of remembrance of those who died in the World Wars (and other conflicts), my prayer is that all who have experienced pain and suffering will find comfort in the words of John's Gospel, 'God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life' (John 3.16)
with every blessing,

Sharon

Revd Sharon Potter, Rector of the Cockfield Benefice,
Revsharon2@gmail.com; 01284 828599 or 07825 086063
www.cockfieldbenefice.com

Cockfield Benefice Services & Events – November 2021

<p>Sunday 7 November 3rd before Advent</p>	<p>9.30am Morning Prayer - Stanningfield 10am Communion - Bradfield St George 10am Morning Prayer – Cockfield 6pm SixtoSeven – Felsham Village Hall</p>
<p>Sunday 14 November 2nd before Advent Remembrance</p>	<p>8.30am Said Communion BCP – Bradfield St Clare 10am Remembrance Service - Stanningfield 10.45am Remembrance Service – Cockfield 10.45am Remembrance Service – Felsham 10.45am Remembrance Service – Bradfield St George 6pm Act of Remembrance – Gt Whelnetham Community Centre</p>
<p>Saturday 20 November</p>	<div style="text-align: center;">  <p>3-5pm at Cockfield Church All children welcome with their parent/carer Crafts – story – song – tea</p> <p>Come along and join the fun!</p> </div>
<p>Sunday 21 November Christ the King</p>	<p>9.30am Communion - Stanningfield 10am Communion - Cockfield 10am Family Worship – Felsham 4pm Evening Prayer – Bradfield St Clare</p>
<p>Sunday 28 November Advent Sunday</p>	<p>9.30am Communion – Gt Whelnetham 10am Communion BCP – Gedding 10am Worshipping Together – Bradfield St George</p>

Please note these services may be subject to change – for up-to-date service times see the benefice website at www.cockfieldbenefice.com

A service of Celtic Morning Prayer is held every Tuesday at Cockfield at 9am
A prayer group meets via zoom every Wednesday at 2pm via zoom. For more details contact Rev Canon Sharon Potter at revsharon2@gmail.com or phone 01284 828599 or 07825-086063

Homily from Mike Morley - Harvest Service 2021

Mike Morley gave a moving homily to farming and the countryside at last month's Harvest Service. We thought it worth sharing.

Thank you for allowing me to talk about Farming and the meaning of harvest festival to me. I ask you all a question: How do you see the role of a farmer? What do you think?

Yes, we grow crops and look after livestock for our own monetary gain and hopefully some profit; but there is a lot more - we are custodians of the countryside, looking after the environment and tending the land that the Lord has provided.

We are only here for a second in the life of the world, a world that has been here forever, a world the Lord has given us responsibility to look after. Farmer's are the Lord's gardeners. However, money and politics have introduced greed to try and take more and more from the land using chemicals to feed that greed.

Sometimes we need to stop and think of all the beauty that surrounds us. How do we encourage this to remain? We do our bit planting trees and hedges to try and put back goodness into the soil, manure, muck and organic matter to feed the millions of microbes, insects and worms within the soil - all God's creatures put there for a reason.

Everything in farming goes in cycles. My family have been at Bishops Farm for over 100 years and we are now turning back to the rotational cropping that Grandma and my father carried out in their farming days. Growing cover crops, green manure. Peas and beans to fix nitrogen, growing grass to feed livestock that in turn feed the soil with manure. This hopefully is our bit to try and get the balance back into our small bit of the countryside. Is it a dream? No it has to happen, we cannot keep taking from the land the Lord has given us. We are lucky in this country to live in a temperate climate. There is always a seed time and a harvest - it is up to us as farmers to use those windows of opportunity the weather gives us to plant and reap. We are lucky that we always get a seedtime and harvest unlike so many countries in Africa. Thinking of our friends in Kagera and many in Southern Africa where the rains don't always come. We as farmers feed and tend our crops - the Lord does the rest providing the essential light for growth, he is the Light of World. Warmth, warmth that comes from light, the sun, again essential for growth and ripening the crops, and lastly

water, rain - the trinity of the three brings the miracle of growth. The miracle of seeing the seed sprout, the first blades of new shoots coming out of the soil.

We can plant and drill seed into the soil but He provides the miracle of growth and ultimately determines the harvest we will have.

Harvest Festival is not just for farmers, but a celebration of life in all shapes and forms, all things bright and beautiful and a Festival of confirmation of our faith in the Lord that he will provide. I ask each and everyone of you to do your bit to look after our beautiful world, so the birds, bees, animals, flowers and trees will continue to exist for generations to come.

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A fundraiser for Little Whelnetham Church

Hand To Mouth

2 talks about charitable medical work

by **Clive Duke** (West Suffolk Hospital) on his reconstructive cleft lip & palate surgery work in Africa, Asia and Central & South America, and **Tony Barabas** (Hinchingsbrooke Hospital and formerly of Little Whelnetham) on reconstructive hand and plastic surgery in Myanmar.

Saturday 20 November 2021

Great Whelnetham Community Centre

Stanningfield Road,

BSE IP30 0TX

7 for 7.30 pm - Bar and nibbles - Tickets: £10

Tickets can be obtained from:

Steve Smith 01284 388311 calafell@btinternet.com

Alix Barabas 01284 386305 alixbarabas@hotmail.com

Jan Golding: janblof@aol.com



Churchwarden's report

The end of September brought our annual harvest festival service. Unfortunately we were not able to follow this with our traditional harvest supper, which is always so popular in the village, as it was felt that over 40 people crowded into the village hall might be just too risky. Instead the service was followed by cheese and bread and wine in the church. Special thanks are due to Val Nunn and Lorraine Morley for all their hard work and for their gifts of cheese and bread and wine. Thanks also to all our flower arrangers for their magnificent efforts and for Mike Morley for his talk on the farming year and the ways in which he tries to care for the land.

We are hoping to start work on the church roof repairs this autumn, but like so many others we are waiting on the builders, who in turn are probably waiting on supplies of material. Watch this space!

As we look forward into autumn and winter, it is a sobering thought that Christmas is only 9 weeks away! This year we are fortunate enough to host the crib service for the benefice. Being on Christmas Eve at 3pm, this should feel very special and we hope that as many of you as possible, together with children, grandchildren and friends will attend. More on this next month. **Isabelle Payne**

Church Opening and Flower Rota - a huge **Thank you** to the whole 'team' who have opened St.Clare Church over the past 28 weekends - wow, where has that time gone! The flower suppliers and arrangers have come up trumps time and again, culminating in the most beautiful Harvest Festival display. Watch out, the Rota will be due to start up again April 2022!!! Anyone in the Village who would like to join this team would be more than welcome and of course to join the 'bakers' of Bradfield St.Clare 😊. Keep an eye on our beautiful Church, as soon the outside lights are due to be switched on - a truly beautiful sight in our Village.

Lorraine Morley 01284 386270 or 07742151667

BRADFIELD WEATHER

Fall has always been my favourite season. The time when everything bursts with its last beauty, as if nature had been saving up all year for the last grand finale.
Lauren De Stefano



Writing on the morning of 19th September, I finished last month saying that more rain was expected that day – and were the forecasters right! - thunder, lightning and a real deluge which amongst other things brought the village McMillan fundraising day to an end. Further rain later in the month brought the total to 67mm compared to our average of 48.6mm, the highest for September since the year 2000.

October started off on a wet note and we left for a week in Exmoor on Monday 4. After rain on the journey down and some the following day we had dry and warm weather for the rest of our stay. Mike, who kindly kept score, tells me there was more rain later in the week in the village here. We have subsequently had our first mild frost of the season but little rain and mild days. Total rainfall to date amounts to 50.5mm, against an average of 61.5mm . **Keith Payne**



Knitted Poppies for Sale

Pat Hipwell

I shall be selling knitted poppies prior to Remembrance

Sunday as usual.

£2.50 a poppy

All Proceeds to British Legion

Available from St Clare Cottage 01284 386636

Christmas Breakfast Marmalade

Available Mid-November

£2.50/jar

All profits to CRISIS

Available from St Clare Cottage 01284 386636

** Also URGENT appeal for Bon Maman jam jars or 1lb ones - NO MARMALADE without jars** Thank you Pat Hipwell.

The way I see it - Pat Hipwell

I've just had a very nice man in my house for a whole day! Re-tiling my bathroom actually, he was a 'whistle while you work' guy - fine but a little disconcerting when he suddenly burst into song. I didn't recognise the song he was singing at first - he was no Frank Sinatra or even Ed Sheeran - as I was doing my tapestry in the conservatory, as one does, it suddenly dawned on me - it was the Streets of London. Many moons ago every self respecting teenager/student who had a guitar could strum about four chords and the chances are this was in the repertoire, and we all sang along to it - why does this Ralph McTell number one hit matter to us?

Have you seen the old man

In the closed down market

Kicking up the papers

With his worn out shoes?

In his eyes, you see no pride

Hand held loosely at his side

Yesterday's paper

Telling yesterday's news

So, how can you tell me you're lonely

And say for you that the sun don't shine?

Let me take you by the hand

And lead you through the streets of London

Show you something to make you change your mind

And so the song goes on....has anything changed? Got better? Or Worse? Or just the status quo? Fast forward to today. According to some doomsayers we are all going to be starving by Christmas - so

the panic buying and hoarding starts- not toilet rolls this time but Turkey, Mince Pies, Stuffing, Pigs in Blankets, and as I write it's only October. Blankets take on a whole new meaning for those without even a roof over their heads, homeless and sleeping rough. (Incidentally, I have read of people who have already bought and wrapped their Christmas presents - spending upwards of over £1000). So for those whose feet are slightly nearer the ground and would like to help provide a proper Christmas meal for the homeless and those living in poverty there are many agencies which provide shelter, help and a refuge at Christmas - Shelter, Centrepont, Crisis, St Mungo's and many more. In Bury we have Gatehouse who collect for the Foodbank. Or why not buy a jar of my Christmas Breakfast Marmalade? Available mid-November @£2.50 a jar - all profits for CRISIS.

Update from the Village Hall Committee

The Village Hall Committee met on 21 October to discuss the possibility of reopening for all events. The discussion focused on the rising cases of Covid and which events could be deemed low risk or safe. After much debate it was decided that the hall could be used for meetings and small events where food and drink would not be served. Therefore the monthly whist drives could commence with tables restricted to six. There will be no refreshments but competitors are welcome to bring their own drinks and snacks if they prefer. The first whist drive will therefore take place on Friday, 3 December and will continue to be held on the first Friday of every month thereafter. Hand sanitiser will be available.

Sadly the majority of the committee felt it was not yet safe to reopen the Kit Café as it would be unsafe to serve food and drink. It would also be difficult to restrict numbers and ventilate the hall during the winter months. The committee realise that this will be a great disappointment to many so we shall meet again on 18 January when we will reassess the situation.

The Village Hall Committee would love to see the hall being used again and meet up with our friends and neighbours once more. Hopefully there will be an improvement soon and we can look forward to meeting up safely.

Village Hall Committee

Writings from Homefield

Right here goes!! With 'have you done your writings yet?', a cup of tea that will probably be cold by the time I drink it and the radio playing songs with different words to the ones I've learnt over the years..where to begin?

We have sold two lambs to a friend recently. Both were castrated ram lambs and were in very good condition, but one lamb had started to push the boundaries, literally. By running at the electric fence he could get through without getting a shock and run back in just as fast when I went out to reprimand him! There is little bit of deja vu here, as the lamb is one of Lucy's, whose first lamb, Lola used to do the same thing and get out to chase the chickens, but thankfully no more! The father of said lamb also developed this habit so - is it something in the genes? I should point out that our friend knew about the antics before buying them and has put them behind sheep netting where they are doing fine. It will soon be time to think about next year's 'crop', so finding a ram without a Houdini gene could be a priority.

In the allotment onions and garlic have been planted out but mainly its clearing up; lettuces and radishes that have bolted, seed saving on the beans and sunflowers and digging out those weeds that were too pretty to cut down but have now seeded and will probably be here for a few years to come. The rhubarb has now finished and been mulched over, a very prolific crop this year. We have leeks, parsnips (very long rooted again), carrots, beetroot and the turnips that I'm sure only went in a week or two ago, more golfball size and ready for stews. I've started spreading the year old compost from the 'builders bag' storage. It has come out very nice and should help improve the soil. The bag helps to keep everything up together and is all green waste and chicken manure with plenty of straw and, as I found when moving it, a few mice. The downside is those 'pesky' mice have moved back in the polytunnel and are eating my seeds again. I've heard that they can get through a hole the size of a biro - so all writing utensils have been banned to stop them making holes to come in. It now turns out they have an app on their phones to help them ;).

Glyn Thomas

Bradfield Woods



Winter Events

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Wild tots **Mondays** 10-11.30am

Sunday 7 November Family Forest fun
10am-12noon

£4.50 child, £2.50 adult

Sunday 7 November - Young Wardens
for 11-16 year olds 1-3pm

£7

Sunday 14 November Kuksa carving
course 10am-4pm

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The Library Van will call at Bradfield St Clare Village Hall from **9.40am until 9.55am** on the following dates:

Month	Date
November	17th
December	15th

BIN COLLECTIONS FOR NOVEMBER 2021

Wednesday 3 November	Blue bin
Tuesday 9 November	Brown bin
Wednesday 10 November	Black bin
Wednesday 17 November	Blue bin
Tuesday 23 November	Brown Bin
Wednesday 24 November	Black Bin

www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/bindays

November was the ninth month of the old Roman year which began with March. The 11th November was held to mark the beginning of winter.

Several Saint's Days in this month: 1st – All Saints Day; 2nd – All Souls day; 11th – St Martin's; 22nd – St Cecilia's; 25th – St Catherine; 30th – St Andrew.

Motto: *“If there's ice in November to bear a duck, there'll be nothing after, but sludge and muck”.*

Things to watch out for in November: This is the month when the fieldfare arrive from northern Europe. The fieldfare is a large, colourful member of the thrush family (about the same size as a mistle thrush) and we are fortunate to see them at this time in our village (although their numbers do appear to be declining). They enjoy our habitat of open fields and hedgerows. I look out for them every year at this time but usually they are heard before they are seen. You may hear a medley of whistles and “chacks” as they fly over or when they come together in the treetops. It is rare to see a lone fieldfare as they gather in flocks. I have noticed that when large numbers are seen feeding and hopping along on fields and meadows it is almost always a sign of a cold snap within a day or two.

A word about hedgehogs: I have just read a delightful and thought provoking elegy to the common hedgehog by Pam Ayres. She is a great supporter of the British Hedgehog Preservation Society and proceeds from her book 'The Last Hedgehog' are donated to this charity. In it she reminds us that unless we take steps to prevent it, the hedgehog will soon be very far from 'common'. The book is beautifully illustrated and, in typical Pam Ayres style, very amusing. This tiny book makes a great stocking filler, but is perhaps not suitable for children.

Here is a snippet from halfway through:

*“From now on, as you pull the drapes
You’ll see no round familiar shapes,
Nevermore from dusk till dawn
Will we eat slugs on your lawn
So little gratitude you’ve shown
From now on you can eat your own.”*

November is the month we need to be especially aware of hedgehogs as bonfires offer a tempting home. BHPS advise us that collected materials should be re-sited just before the fire is to be lit and the piles should be checked very carefully for wildlife in need of rescue before lighting.

Whatever you are doing, have an enjoyable Guy Fawkes Night and may it also be peaceful and happy for all our fellow creatures.

Val Nunn

Bradfield St George Village Hall

Fireworks and BBQ

Friday 5th November

6pm BBQ & BAR,

7pm Fireworks



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Plant and Produce Stall - Linden House

Margaret and Mike are delighted to be able to donate £75 from the stall to Church Funds. Since the manic spring/summer planting it has been quieter, so special thank you to those that have supplied garden surplus to sell.

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WEIBANG

A Village Magazine for the people of the Village

The editors will always be happy to accept articles, observations, crosswords, quizzes and general comments for the magazine.

Deadline for contributions 18th of the month please.

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Local Member	Sarah Mildmay-White - 01359 270580 Sara.Mildmay-White@stedsbcc.gov.uk
Bradfield St Clare Book Club/Village Hall Bookings	Mrs Val Nunn - 01284 388830
Bradfield Grapevine Magazine	Mrs Debbie Thomas - 01284 386302 stclaregrapevine@gmail.com Mrs Margaret Lovick - 01284 386662
Bury Stray Cat Fund	01284 388455
Charity for the Relief in Sickness	Secretary: Mrs Vicky Spall - 01284 386357
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Member of Parliament	Mrs Jo Churchill - 01284 752311 www.jochurchill.mp@parliament.uk
Neighbourhood Watch Contact	Mrs Dianne Bullard - 01284 386598
Parish Council Clerk	Mrs Nicola Sturgeon - 07817170906
Parish Council Website	http://bradfieldstclare.one Suffolk.net
Police	101 (non-urgent) 999 (urgent)
Police Twitter name	@stedspolice 01473 613500
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Schools:Cockfield Primary	01284 828287
Thurston Community College	01359 230885
West Suffolk College	01284 701301
St Clare Church	Rev. Canon Sharon Potter revsharon2@gmail.com 01284 828599 / 07825 086063
St Edmunds RC Church	Fr David Bagstaff - 01284 754358

